AMENDMENTS TO AND LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating tinnitus induced by cochlear excitotoxicity in a human, the method comprising administering to ~~a~~ the human a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising the NMDA receptor antagonist ketamine, effective to suppress or reduce NMDA receptor mediated aberrant activity of the auditory nerve in ~~a~~ the human in need of such treatment and correlating the administration of ketamine with a reduction in tinnitus~~, wherein said reduction in tinnitus is the result of suppressed or reduced NMDA receptor mediated aberrant activity of the auditory nerve~~.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the cochlear excitotoxicity is provoked by an occurrence selected from the group consisting of acoustic trauma, presbycusis, ischemia, anoxia, and sudden deafness.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered topically/locally via the round window membrane or the oval window membrane to the inner ear.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered topically/locally by means of invasive drug delivery techniques to the inner ear.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the cochlear excitotoxicity is ~~characterized as~~ acute.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the cochlear excitotoxicity is ~~characterized as~~ repeated.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the cochlear excitotoxicity is ~~characterized as~~ prolonged or chronic.

10. (New) A method for treating tinnitus induced by cochlear excitotoxicity in a human, comprising administering to the human a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising ketamine.

11. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the normal auditory neurotransmission is not affected.

12. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the pharmacological composition comprises a ketamine analog, a ketamine derivative or a ketamine enantiomer.

13. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the ketamine is (S)-ketamine.

14. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the ketamine is enantiomerically enriched for (S)-ketamine.